City of Lafayette Staff Report

For: Lafayette City Council

By: Steven Falk, Lafayette City Manager

Date Written: February 3, 2009

Meeting Date: February 9, 2009

Subject: **Lafayette Stimulus Package**

Introduction

At its regular staff meeting last week, the Planning Department staff brainstormed an idea to create a Lafayette stimulus package that would seek to encourage businesses and developers to thrive in Lafayette during these trying economic times. The City's department heads, in turn, discussed the idea and developed the following ideas for Council consideration:

Lafayette Stimulus Package

The City Council might order that the following package of policies be made effective for all of 2009:

Policy	*Estimated Incremental Cost / Lost Revenue*
Waive cost for all sign permits	$5,000. City could be reimbursed by RDA.
Waive waste management deposit fee	None; lost interest only
Automatic 1-year extension of all planning permits for developments in the RDA project area	None.
City covers cost of any street trees required by development	$500 ea.
Devote spring Vistas to "Try Lafayette First" and downtown promotion	None
City undertakes project to underground power lines on Lafayette Circle	None. Project already underway.

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If Council were interested in being more aggressive (at greater cost and lost revenue to the City), it might consider other options such as having the RDA cover the cost of all walkway improvements required of developers; and having no parking enforcement on Saturdays.

Staff recognizes that these steps may not make a huge difference, but they might serve as a signal that Lafayette is interested in doing something positive for the downtown, and in serving as a partner to its businesses and developers.

Recommendation

Discuss and direct staff.